

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19913

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CVIS, PINT, UR, US

SUBJECT; SIT-INS IN EMBASSY MOSCOW

REF: STATE 211430

1. SHORTLY BEFORE WE RECEIVED YOUR CABLE ON SATURDAY, THE LEADER OF THE PENTECOSTALISTS, VASHCHENKO, INITIATED A CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER AND SAID THAT THEY HAVE NO INTENTION OF REMAINING INDEFINITELY, THAT IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER THEY WILL LEAVE BUT WHERE THEY WILL GO AFTER THEY LEAVE. HE SAID THEY WILL NOT RETURN TO THEIR HOME TOWN BECAUSE THEY KNOW THE AUTHORITIES THERE WILL BEAT AND IMPRISON THEM.

2. IN MY VIEW THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT AND GIVES US A BASIS FOR GOING BACK TO THE SOVIETS HERE (WHICH WE WILL DO TODAY) AND ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT--PERHAPS A HEARING BEFORE THE ALL-UNION OVIR IN MOSCOW--WHICH MIGHT BE SUFFICIENT ASSURANCE TO CONVINCE THE PENTECOSTALISTS TO LEAVE. BUT I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WILL WRING FROM THE SOVIETS ANYTHING MORE THAN I RECEIVED FROM KORNIYENKO, NOR DO I THINK AN APPROACH TO GROMYKO WOULD BE HELPFUL. AND CERTAINLY
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WE'LL GET NOTHING IN WRITING. I WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER PUTTING SUCH A REQUEST TO THE SOVIETS.

3. IF THESE EFFORTS ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE SHOULD CONSIDER OTHER STEPS INCLUDING THE ORDER TO LEAVE I RECOMMENDED EARLIER AND PERHAPS SOME OF THOSE SUGGESTED REFTEL. AT THIS POINT I DO NOT BELIEVE AN

EMISSARY WOULD BE DESIRABLE, NOR WOULD I RECOMMEND ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON THE WASHINGTON END. WE HAVE TRIED TO AVOID GIVING THE GROUP ANY ENCOURAGEMENT TO HOPE FOR FURTHER EFFORTS BY US SO LONG AS THEY ARE HERE, AND THIS OBJECTIVE SHOULD UNDERLIE ANY FUTURE MOVES. ALTHOUGH JOURNALISTS HAVE HAD ACCESS TO THEM DURING WORKING HOURS, WE HAVE STRICTLY LIMITED STAFF CONTACT WITH THEM, AND AFTER HOURS AND ON WEEKENDS THEY SEE NO ONE BUT A FEW INDIVIDUALS IN THE COMMUNITY WHO COMBINE SYMPATHY WITH REPEATED URGINGS TO LEAVE FOR THEIR OWN GOOD AND THE GOOD OF THEIR CO-RELIGIONISTS. THE PROTESTANT CHAPLAIN HAS VOLUNTEERED TO PREPARE RELIGIOUS ARGUMENTATION, BASED ON THE SCRIPTURES, IN FAVOR OF THEIR LEAVING AND HAD BEEN PLANNING TO DO SO--TOGETHER WITH THE CATHOLIC PRIEST--THE FIRST OF THE WEEK. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH TACTICS, TOGETHER WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, HAVE BROUGHT VASHCHENKO TO MAKE THE COMMENTS HE DID SATURDAY.

4. IF OUR EFFORTS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ARE UNAVAILING, I STILL BELIEVE I SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO ORDER THEM TO LEAVE. A HIGH-LEVEL MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON, AS SUGGESTED REFTEL, WOULD BE HELPFUL IF IT INCORPORATED AN ORDER TO LEAVE.

5. AS REGARDS THE ARMENIANS, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE WOMAN IS MUCH LESS RESOLUTE THAN THE PENTECOSTALISTS
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AND WILL SOON DECIDE TO LEAVE WHATEVER THEY DO. IF THEY LEAVE FIRST, SHE WOULD PROBABLY SOON FOLLOW.

6. I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE CIRCUMLOCUTIONS IN BOTH THE GENERAL GUIDANCE IN STATE 203300 AND IN PARA 4 REFTEL WHICH IMPLY THE USE OF FORCE BUT DO NOT SAY SO. I HAVE TOLD THE JOURNALISTS HERE THAT I WILL NOT USE FORCE. I DO NOT INTEND TO DO SO, IN THIS CASE OR ANY OTHER, UNLESS EXPLICITLY INSTRUCTED. AN ORDER TO LEAVE MIGHT BE SEEN BY SOME AS TANTAMOUNT TO FORCE BUT AS I SUGGESTED IN A PREVIOUS MESSAGE WE WOULD BE UNDER NO COMPULSION TO EXPLAIN IN DETAIL OUR TACTICS; WE WOULD SIMPLY SAY HERE AND IN WASHINGTON THAT THE PENTECOSTALISTS FINALLY DECIDED TO FOLLOW OUR ADVICE TO LEAVE. TOON

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